

Corporal Punishment in Public Schools



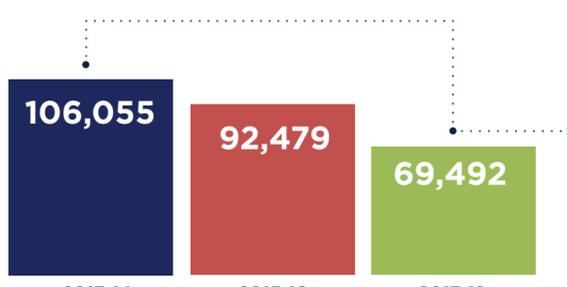
U.S. Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights

2017-18 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)

The Civil Rights Data Collection gathers and publishes key information about student access to educational opportunities and school climate from public schools (pre-K through 12th grade) in all 50 states, D.C., and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

The CRDC defines corporal punishment as paddling, spanking, or other forms of physical punishment imposed on a child. The data reported in this factsheet is for K-12 students.*

THE FACTS

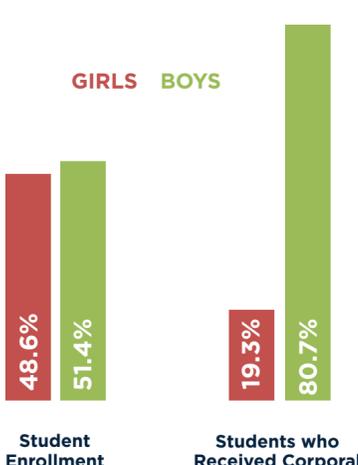


From 2013-14 to 2017-18, the number of students reported to receive corporal punishment **decreased by 34.5%**.

By sex of student, 2017-18

4.0x

Boys were 4.0 times more likely than girls to receive corporal punishment.



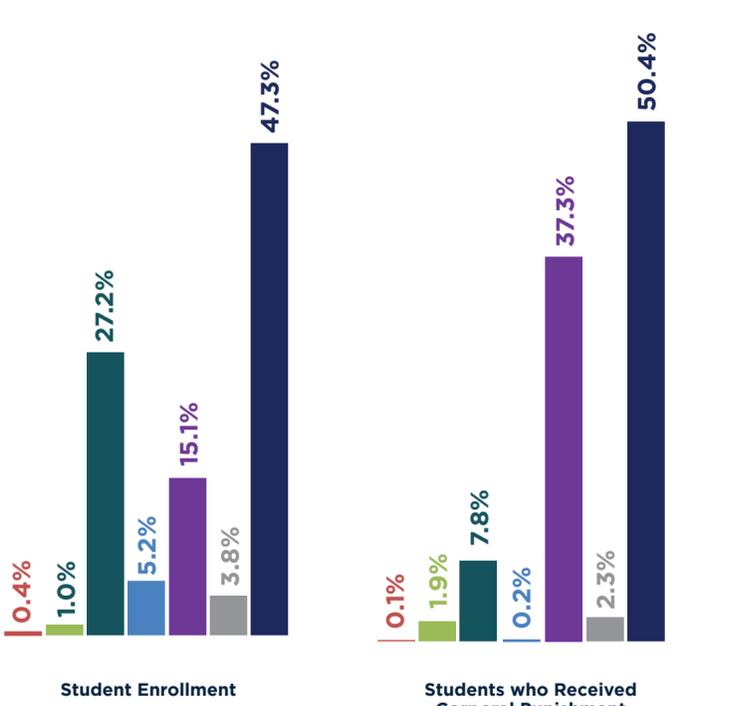
By race/ethnicity of student, 2017-18

Across all of the race/ethnicities, American Indian or Alaska Native, Black, and White students disproportionately received corporal punishment.

Black students received corporal punishment at more than twice their rate of enrollment and American Indian or Alaska Native students received corporal punishment at almost twice their rate of enrollment.

2.3x

IN 2017-18, BLACK STUDENTS WERE 2.3 TIMES MORE LIKELY THAN WHITE STUDENTS TO RECEIVE CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.



- White
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- Two or more races
- Asian
- American Indian or Alaska Native



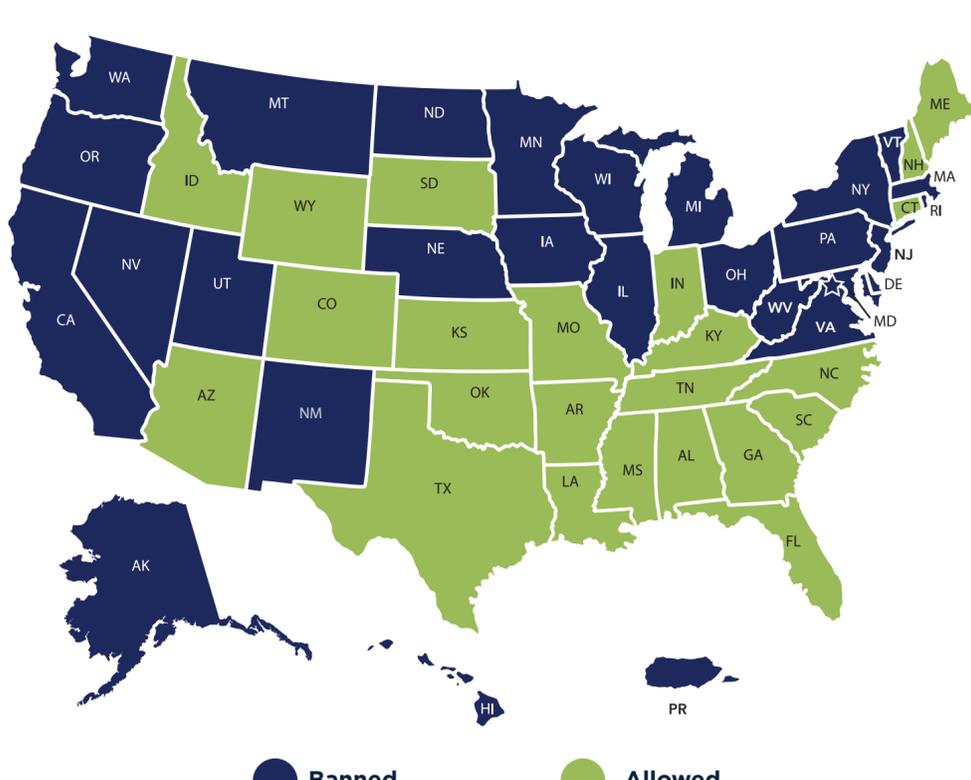
Students with disabilities served under the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) were overrepresented in receipt of corporal punishment. Students served under IDEA represented 13.2% of the student enrollment but 16.5% of the students who received corporal punishment.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, 2017-18 Civil Rights Data Collection, released October 2020, updated May 2021, available at <https://ocrdata.ed.gov>.

STATE LAWS ON CORPORAL PUNISHMENT IN SCHOOLS

27 states, D.C., and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico ban corporal punishment in schools.**

The majority of students who received corporal punishment were in the southern United States: **Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Texas.**



*For information about preschool students who received corporal punishment please visit the **CRDC 2017-18 State and National Estimates'** preschool discipline tab.

**This graphic was updated March 2023 to provide clarity about the potential use of corporal punishment in states that do not expressly ban the practice at the state level.



More information on corporal punishment and other civil rights data is available at <https://ocrdata.ed.gov>. The entire *Focus on Student Discipline* series can be found at: <https://ocrdata.ed.gov/resources/datareports>.



If you have difficulty understanding English, you may ask OCR to provide language access services or resources, which may include oral technical assistance or written translation of a publicly available OCR document, free of charge, by contacting OCR at OCR@ed.gov.



For requests for documents in alternate formats such as Braille or large print please contact the Department at 202-260-0852 or om_eeos@ed.gov.